

Cool Temperatures Arrive

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 17, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Early in the week, conditions were dry and favorable to a wide variety of farm activities. However, scattered rain fell late in the week, slowing fieldwork. Most areas needed the precipitation, so the rain induced break was welcome. Statewide, temperatures were well below normal for the week. Averages ranged from 6 degrees below normal in the western Upper Peninsula and the southwest and south central Lower Peninsula to 3 degrees below normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula and west central Lower Peninsula. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.41 inches in the central Lower Peninsula to 1.27 inches in the eastern Upper Peninsula. A farmer in the central district summed up the week, “Rain and cool weather bring a mix of feelings. We needed the rain for the soil, but it slowed harvest progress.” A grower in the southeast voiced the same sentiment, “Wet weather for the last several days has slowed down harvest. However, the moisture is beneficial for planting and tillage.”

Field Crops

Continued dry weather early in the week allowed farmers statewide to make good harvest progress. Rains later in the week slowed harvesting, but most areas were grateful for the timely arrival of much needed showers which will replenish soil moisture levels as well as help the emerging wheat crop and aid fall tillage. **Soybean** combining moved along. Some growers neared completion on early planted beans. **Corn** harvest was ongoing. Farmers moved closer to the end of chopping silage, while harvest of corn for grain progressed. The arrival of cooler temperatures was conducive to **sugarbeet** storage, allowing producers to increase their harvesting pace. The rain also aided in harvest and allowed the crop to size a bit more. **Dry bean** harvest was almost wrapped up. **Wheat** planting continued. Growers were still harvesting the last of their **hay** crops.

Soil moisture for week ending 10/17/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	12	46	41	1
Subsoil	20	45	35	0

Crop condition for week ending 10/17/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	4	12	32	37	15
Pasture	9	27	38	18	8
Soybeans	3	9	30	44	14

Fruit

Apple harvest was almost complete in the southwest, with a few late season varieties such as Fuji being harvested. In the Ridge area, harvest continued ahead of schedule, where Red Delicious, Ida Red, and Romes were being picked. In the southeast, growers harvesting for local markets were finishing up Golden and Red Delicious. Some growers were picking Fuji for shipping. **Grape** harvest was completed throughout the State.

Vegetables

Vegetable growers worked to harvest late season crops. **Pumpkin** and **squash** harvest moved along. Farmers continued to deal with a truck shortage to transport pumpkins to southern markets. **Potato** harvest continued, with operators in most areas making good progress over the week. Growers continued to gain on the **carrot** harvest. **Cabbage** picking was ongoing in the southwest. In the southeast, a few growers continued to harvest plastic tunnel covered **tomatoes** and cucurbit varieties.

Crop progress for week ending 10/17/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, fourth cutting	73	50	43	62
Apples, harvested	82	67	NA	NA
Corn, mature	90	66	92	94
Corn, harvested	19	13	15	26
Corn silage, harvested	95	88	96	96
Dry beans, harvested	96	93	97	86
Potatoes, harvested	80	74	NA	NA
Soybeans, dropping leaves	94	91	99	98
Soybeans, harvested	52	40	62	52
Sugarbeets, harvested	9	5	20	38
Winter wheat, planted	84	63	71	75
Winter wheat, emerged	40	12	30	38

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 10/17/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	66	30		1,921	2,146		0.52	0.99	2.07	21.11		
Marquette	67	31		1,834	2,063		0.98	1.22	2.14	21.02		
Stephenson	67	28		2,198	2,367		0.37	0.94	2.32	20.04		
Western UP	67	28	-6	1,941	2,136	1,996	0.51	0.99	2.07	19.07	21.33	2.57
Cornell	64	32		1,934	2,255		1.66	2.50	3.40	22.05		
Sault St Marie	64	33		1,670	1,994		1.67	2.77	3.43	20.78		
Eastern UP	69	27	-3	1,706	1,993	1,756	1.27	2.15	3.06	19.44	20.37	2.57
Beulah	64	34		2,262	2,344		1.16	1.59	2.24	22.70		
Lake City	65	30		2,192	2,203		0.85	1.53	1.98	19.38		
Old Mission	63	30		2,190	2,324		1.66	2.16	2.78	21.34		
Pellston	65	24		2,078	2,212		1.26	2.17	3.24	18.49		
Northwest	65	24	-4	2,126	2,231	2,288	1.26	1.88	2.54	19.81	19.67	2.75
Alpena	63	30		2,169	2,195		1.01	1.80	2.07	17.14		
Houghton Lake	62	27		2,299	2,331		0.60	2.33	2.59	18.80		
Rogers City	64	28		2,176	2,291		0.99	1.88	2.21	19.79		
Northeast	67	23	-5	2,194	2,299	2,210	0.86	1.86	2.16	18.34	19.40	2.40
Fremont	67	33		2,542	2,642		0.39	1.39	1.76	19.24		
Hart	66	30		2,389	2,482		0.57	1.24	2.06	21.40		
Muskegon	64	36		2,565	2,746		0.34	1.16	1.56	22.14		
West Central	67	30	-3	2,456	2,564	2,504	0.58	1.29	1.85	22.30	19.81	2.94
Alma	63	33		2,663	2,660		0.43	1.19	1.53	22.66		
Big Rapids	62	34		2,484	2,436		0.46	1.98	2.46	22.65		
Central	63	33	-4	2,600	2,544	2,587	0.41	1.31	1.68	21.81	20.45	2.59
Bad Axe	66	33		2,479	2,363		0.95	1.34	1.58	19.63		
Pigeon	62	31		2,454	2,356		0.78	0.90	1.18	20.25		
Saginaw	61	34		2,689	2,602		0.63	0.95	1.18	18.36		
Standish	63	30		2,423	2,326		0.44	0.92	1.16	19.08		
East Central	66	30	-4	2,472	2,428	2,603	0.74	1.11	1.37	19.69	18.22	2.41
Fennville	63	31		2,616	2,624		0.58	0.69	0.77	14.94		
Grand Rapids	64	35		2,907	2,716		0.98	1.88	2.36	24.17		
Holland	62	34		2,708	2,705		0.68	1.29	1.91	17.52		
South Bend, IN	62	35		3,060	2,905		0.51	0.89	1.28	24.50		
Watervliet	64	34		2,801	2,674		1.14	1.41	2.11	25.63		
Southwest	68	29	-6	2,804	2,731	2,844	0.84	1.37	1.91	23.17	21.24	2.99
Belding	65	31		2,652	2,585		0.36	1.72	2.16	24.33		
Coldwater	63	32		2,732	2,525		0.58	1.23	2.38	24.17		
Lansing	63	33		2,780	2,675		0.72	1.02	1.20	23.09		
South Central	65	31	-6	2,774	2,687	2,792	0.77	1.22	1.63	23.54	20.55	2.41
Detroit	63	40		3,105	2,968		0.19	0.29	0.51	20.38		
Flint	63	30		2,819	2,797		0.39	0.78	1.00	19.52		
Romeo	68	35		2,802	2,620		1.29	1.51	2.03	25.07		
Tipton	66	34		2,792	2,658		0.95	1.06	1.87	19.93		
Toledo, OH	64	36		3,128	2,988		1.21	1.23	1.69	19.06		
Southeast	68	29	-5	2,848	2,801	2,790	0.92	1.12	1.58	21.67	19.44	2.33

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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